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INFO RUCNRAQ/IRAQ COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [IZ](#) [JO](#)

SUBJECT: GOJ WELCOMES NEW IRAQI GOVERNMENT, URGES COMPLETION

REF: STATE 81632

Classified By: Ambassador David Hale for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

[¶1.](#) (U) King Abdullah's office issued a press release May 20 describing the King's congratulatory telephone call that day to Iraqi President Jalal Talabani. The release, given prominent play in local media, described the King as expressing hope that the selection of a new Iraqi cabinet would be a "significant step towards building a new Iraq."

[¶2.](#) (C) In a conversation May 20 with the Ambassador, Jordanian Foreign Minister Khatib said he hoped to be the first Arab Foreign Minister to visit his new Iraqi counterpart. If planning for a Khatib visit moves forward, we expect the GOJ to request USG assistance with security arrangements in Iraq.

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